Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020]   Furthermore, when an error in one process manifests itself as a manufacturing defect in a subsequent process, the severity of the defect will only [increases] increase as the process progresses. Such a problem is thus associated with reductions in manufacturing yield.

Please replace paragraph [0070] with the following amended paragraph:

[0070] The plurality of process chambers may be arrayed vertically on one side of the transfer chamber, and a plurality of load lock chambers may arrayed vertically on another side of the transfer chamber directly across from the process chambers, respectively. Alternatively, a plurality of process chambers and a load lock chamber can all be disposed in one vertical array on one side of the transfer chamber. As another alternative, the transfer chamber may be disposed above a load lock chamber, with a plurality of process chambers being disposed in a vertical array at one side of the transfer chamber.

Please replace paragraph [0170] with the following amended paragraph:

[0170] The arm member 54 of the robot Rc is extendable and retractable in the vertical direction so as to enable the wafer support 18 to be moved toward and away from the load lock chamber 34f. Accordingly, the robot Rc is capable of loading wafers into and unloading wafers from the load lock chamber 34f. Furthermore, the

arm member 54 is also movable in horizontal directions, via the movable arm support

58, so that the wafer support 18 can be moved toward and away from selected ones of

the process [chamber] chambers 32f. The arm member 54 is also rotatable relative to

the arm supports 56, 58. Still further, the wafer support 18 can be rotated about a

horizontal axis via the joint 60, and can be extended and retracted relative to the end

of the robot arm member 54. Accordingly, the robot Rc is also capable of loading

wafers W into and unloading wafers W from each of the process chambers 32f, 36f.